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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part IV)

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under item 143 (a) appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/53/522 and Add.1 and 2.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 55th, 56th, 61st, 62nd and 63rd meetings, on 10, 11, 25, 27 and 28 May 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.55, 56, 61, 62 and 63).

3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/53/895);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed budgetary requirements of each peacekeeping operation for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/C.5/53/50);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed budgetary requirements of each peacekeeping operation for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (A/C.5/53/60);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations and the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/C.5/53/62 and Corr.1);

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United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi: performance report for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (A/53/776);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi: cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (A/53/815);

(g) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/895 and Add.8);

Support account for peacekeeping operations

(h) Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/854 and Add.1);

(i) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/901);

Peacekeeping Reserve Fund

(j) Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/912);

(k) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/961);

Reimbursement regarding contingent-owned equipment

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on the first full year of implementation of the reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/53/465);

(m) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/944 and Corr.1);

Death and disability benefits

(n) Note by the Secretary-General: seventh quarterly report for the period 1 January to 31 March 1999 (A/C.5/53/58).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.67

4. At the 62nd meeting, on 27 May, the representative of the Bahamas, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations" (A/C.5/53/L.67), which she orally revised as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 3, the words "so far" were deleted after the words "efforts made";

(b) Operative paragraph 26, which read:

"26. [*Also decides* that non-governmental organizations with which the Department of Political Affairs maintains contact should only be those in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council]",

was deleted;

(c) Operative paragraph 27, which read:

"27. [*Requests* the Secretary-General to reformulate paragraph 24 of his report on the support account in accordance with legislative mandates approved in the medium-term plan and its revisions],

was renumbered 26 and replaced by the following text:

"26. *Decides* to delete paragraph 24 of the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations and requests the issuance of a corrigendum to that effect."

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.67, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Cuba, Canada (on behalf also of Australia and New Zealand) and the United States of America (see A/C.5/53/SR.62).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.63

7. At the 62nd meeting, on 27 May, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy" (A/C.5/53/L.63), submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.63 without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.62

9. At the 62nd meeting, on 27 May, the representative of Australia, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" (A/C.5/53/L.62).

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.62 without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution III).

D. Draft decision I proposed by the Chairman

11. At the 59th meeting, on 21 May, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision entitled "Peacekeeping Reserve Fund", which the Committee adopted without a vote (see para. 17, draft decision I).

E. Draft decision II proposed by the Chairman

12. At the 61st meeting, on 25 May, the Chairman of the Committee orally proposed a draft decision entitled "Death and disability benefits", which the Committee adopted without a vote (see para. 17, draft decision II).

F. Draft decision A/C.5/53/L.69

13. At the 63rd meeting, on 28 May, the representative of the Republic of Korea and coordinator of informal consultations on this question introduced a draft decision entitled "Reform procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment" (A/C.5/53/L.69).

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 17, draft decision III).

15. After the adoption of the draft decision, statements in explanation of positions were made by the representatives of Canada (on behalf also of Australia and New Zealand), Pakistan, Algeria, Egypt, Cuba and Jordan (see A/C.5/53/SR.63).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

16. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 48/226 B of 5 April 1994, 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, 49/250 of 20 July 1995, 50/11 of 2 November 1995, 50/221 A of 11 April 1996, 50/221 B of 7 June 1996, 51/226 of 3 April 1997, 51/239 A of 17 June 1997, 51/239 B and 51/243 of 15 September 1997, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 52/234 and 52/248 of 26 June 1998, 53/12 of 26 October 1998 and 53/208 B of 18 December 1998, and its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Reaffirming the need to continue to improve the administrative and financial management of peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases,

[1] A/53/854 and Add.1.

[2] A/53/901.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations,[1] including the performance report on the use of support account resources for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998;

2. *Also takes note* of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

3. *Notes* the initial efforts made in the implementation of the request contained in paragraph 7 of its resolution 51/239 A and paragraph 14 of its resolution 52/248, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Notes also* that the backstopping activities for peacekeeping operations require ongoing reviews, which should take into account the overall evolution of peacekeeping trends;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the issues related to this analysis in his annual report on the support account;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to avoid duplication, overlapping and fragmentation in all departments involved in the backstopping of peacekeeping operations;

7. *Concurs* with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its report;[2]

8. *Notes* the improvement in the format and content of the reports of the Secretary-General on the support account and requests him to make further improvements in accordance with its resolution 51/239 A and the related reports of the Advisory Committee;[3]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to adopt a standard format for support account reports in accordance with its resolution 53/208 B;

10. *Invites* the Advisory Committee to submit its reports in accordance with paragraph 12 of its resolution 53/208 B;

11. *Affirms* the need for adequate funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations;

12. *Reaffirms* that the expenses of the Organization, including backstopping of peacekeeping operations, shall be borne by Member States, and, to that effect, that the Secretary-General should request adequate funding to maintain the capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat;

13. *Stresses* that the Secretary-General should continue to submit annually comprehensive proposals on the total requirement for human and financial resources from all sources of funding for all departments involved in the backstopping of peacekeeping operations;

14. *Notes* the observations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 28 of its report,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the delegation of authority to field missions is in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the regulations and rules of the Organization and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

15. *Notes with concern* the reduction in the level of resources for the Training Unit, which may affect the capacity of the Unit to perform its important functions in the backstopping of peacekeeping operations;

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[3] A/53/895 and A/53/901.

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine further the requirements of the Training Unit and to include the results of that review in the next support account budget proposal with a view to enhancing the training function of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

17. *Emphasizes* the need for coordination of the internal and external audits of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the peacekeeping missions with a view to avoiding duplication and overlap;

18. *Decides* to maintain for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 the funding mechanism for the support account used in the current period, from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, as provisionally approved in paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/221 B;

19. *Approves* four hundred support account-funded temporary posts for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000;

20. *Regrets* that a comprehensive review of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, as requested in paragraph 7 of its resolution 53/12, has not been carried out, and requests the Secretary-General to make the comprehensive review available before the report on the support account for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 is submitted;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary military and civilian police expertise in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is maintained;

22. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the six additional posts for the rapidly deployable mission headquarters should be accommodated through redeployment within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat;

23. *Decides* to monitor closely the functions and activities to be performed by the rapidly deployable mission headquarters, in particular its functions related to other structures in the Secretariat, and to revert to the issue in the context of future reports of the Secretary-General on the support account;

24. *Approves* the support account post and non-post requirements for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 in the amount of 34,887,100 United States dollars;

25. *Decides* to apply the unencumbered balance of 3,865,800 dollars for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 to the resources required for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and to appropriate the balance of 31,021,300 dollars, to be prorated among the individual active peacekeeping operation budgets, to meet the financing requirements of the support account for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000;

26. *Decides* to delete paragraph 24 of the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations[4] and requests the issuance of a corrigendum to that effect.

Draft resolution II

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

The General Assembly,

Recalling section XIV of its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994,

[4] A/53/854/Add.1.

Recalling also its decision 50/500 of 17 September 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/1 B of 26 June 1998,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Logistics Base[5] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

Stressing the importance of establishing an accurate inventory of assets,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;[5]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the effective and timely completion of the clearing of the backlog in the inventory, and requests the Secretary-General to give priority to the full implementation of a single database for the field assets control system;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[7]

4. *Concurs* with the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the cost-benefit analysis;

5. *Urges* the International Civil Service Commission to finalize its work on the review of the rate of post adjustment for the Logistics Base and report thereon before the end of the regular session of the fifty-fourth General Assembly;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the next budget submission, to indicate clearly, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the resources required for the Logistics Base to perform its basic functions;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take additional steps with a view to wider use of the Logistics Base by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, taking into account the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 12 and 34 of its report;[7]

8 *Approves* the cost estimates for the Logistics Base amounting to 7,456,500 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000;

9. *Decides* to apply the unencumbered balance of 1,373,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 to the resources required for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, and also decides to prorate the balance of 6,082,900 dollars among the individual active peacekeeping operation budgets to meet the financing requirements of the Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000;

10. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to provide for a civilian establishment consisting of ten Professional, ten Field Service and eighty-three locally recruited staff;

11. *Decides* to consider the question of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi during its fifty-fourth session.

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[5] A/53/776 and A/53/815.

[6] A/53/895 and Add.8.

[7] A/53/895/Add.8.

Draft resolution III

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

Endorses the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee and, in this connection:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General to conduct the review recommended in paragraph 41 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[8] in consultation with Member States, through established mechanisms;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to include in his next report on the support account information on the implications of the implementation of the review recommended in paragraph 48 of the report of the Advisory Committee.[8]

* * *

17. The Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Peacekeeping Reserve Fund

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund[9] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[10] and concurs with the recommendations and observations of the Advisory Committee thereon.

Draft decision II

Death and disability benefits

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits[11] and on the progress made in clearing the backlog of claims for incidents.

[8] A/53/895.
[9] A/53/912.
[10] A/53/961.
[11] A/C.5/53/58.

Draft decision III

Reform procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment

The General Assembly:

(a) Decides to request the Secretary-General to convene the Phase V Working Group, in accordance with its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994;

(b) Also decides to continue its consideration of the question of reform procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment at its fifty-fourth session.